

ADDRESS

BY

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE

TO

THE CITIZENS OF WINNIPEG,

ON

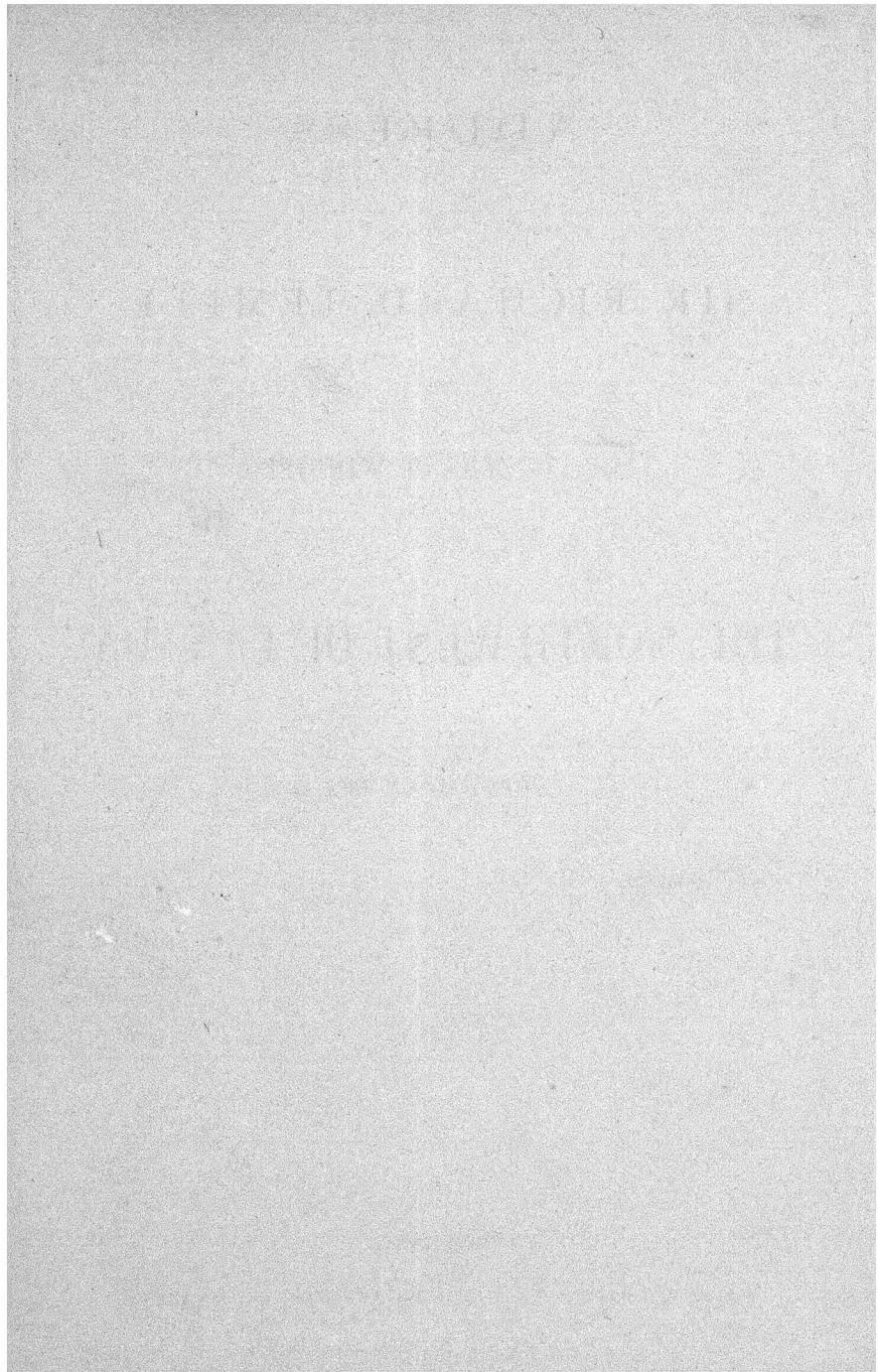
THE NORTH-WEST OF CANADA.

*SEPTEMBER 1884.*

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REPRINTED

FROM A REPORT BY R. L. RICHARDSON, JOURNALIST.



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CITIZENS of Winnipeg, with their proverbial shrewdness, are always ready to take advantage of every opportunity which offers itself to advertise the country, and acquaint the world with its vast resources. It is no wonder therefore that when the distinguished scientists returned a reception was proposed, at which the more prominent members of the party were asked to speak, and give the public the advantage of their observations and impressions formed during the trip. The Princess Opera House was secured, and upon the night of Tuesday, the 16th of September, Sir Richard Temple delivered the following address to an audience, which for magnitude and enthusiasm has never been excelled in Winnipeg. Upon the platform were Hon. Mr. Norquay, Premier of Manitoba; Hon. J. C. Aikins, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba; His Worship Mayor Logan, of Winnipeg; Hon. Mr. Brown, U.S. Consul Taylor, and others. Hon. Mr. Norquay, as chairman, introduced Sir Richard Temple, who said—

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—I am sure a great deal of what I am about to say you are already familiar with, but one finds in travelling over your magnificent country so much to talk about that I almost feel under an obligation to you for affording me this opportunity of relieving myself of the burden of good

things I have to say about you. I purpose dividing my lecture into eighteen subjects, which I shall deal with separately. The first I shall speak of is

#### THE EXCURSION

of a section of the British Association to the Rocky Mountains. This was one of the longest, if not the longest, excursion ever undertaken, and in that respect was suitable to the land in which it was made. The excursionists were about one hundred in number, and were all men of more than ordinary education. Now that they are no longer present I might say about them what I had not dared to say to their faces, that they are a thoroughly accomplished, learned, and scientific body of men. They proceeded most carefully, thoroughly, and conscientiously, and saw everything that could possibly be brought within the range of their vision in the most complete manner. Among them were many who carry weight at home, and whose opinions are listened to throughout England. Therefore you can judge whether it is not a great advantage to this country in the present state of public opinion to have such a cloud of witnesses now returning to England—men who have faith in the North-west of Canada, and who will give before all England a scientific reason for the faith that is in them. I know their reports will be favourable in the extreme. We came here with high anticipations, and those anticipations have been more than fulfilled. We were quite struck with admiration of all we saw and heard, and I am quite sure our evidence will be satisfactory to the well-wishers of the North-west in the highest degree. It should, however, be remembered that we have, after all, hardly seen the best of the country. We have seen what might be called the southern section, but we have heard that there is another section still finer, grander, and richer. What would have been our admiration if we could have seen the glorious whole? Nevertheless we have heard on authentic evidence of the greatness of the northern region; and we can measure its greatness by considering what we have actually seen.

## THE LONE LAND A LAND OF PROMISE.

I beg to refer, secondly, to the remarkable contrast presented, the beautiful country until recently called "The Lone Land," now being considered a land of promise. It is but a very few years since the places which are now the haunts of civilisation were the runs and wallowing places of herds of buffaloes. The country is vast. The popular idea in England now is that the North-west of Canada could sustain a population of 100,000,000 of Anglo-Saxons. I do not know exactly how they got the figure of 100,000,000; nevertheless it is very possible that this may be realised in the not very remote future. Indeed, considering the cultivable area of the North-west, including both the North-west Provinces and Manitoba, which can hardly be less than a million square miles, and reckoning a population of 100 to the square mile, which is not a high average, the result would be a total population of 100,000,000, one hundred millions. This vast area may fairly be compared with some of the neighbouring States of North America, fully equalling probably that of Dakota, Idaho, Minnesota, and Washington, which are constituting a land of promise to our American kinsmen.

## THE SCENERY.

The scenery of the prairie impressed all the excursionists with its vastness. There is a beauty in mere immensity; although the surface of the ground be not diversified, yet it is a wonderful sight to see the sun rise and set on a tract perfectly level on all sides—as it were an ocean of vegetation. The approach to the Rocky Mountains from the prairie is perhaps the most remarkable in the world. I do not want to give exaggerated ideas. People here probably think the Rocky Mountains the greatest in the British Empire, but the British Empire is a very large place. They are scarcely more than a third as high as the Himalayas, nevertheless the approach to them from the plains is truly wonderful; for they rise as masses of rock right out of the prairie. During the greater part of the year they are covered with snow. Even now, at the end of summer, the rocks are mainly snow-capped. As we

approached the mountains we actually saw about 150 miles of continuous snow-clad hills, which, rising straight out of the prairie, constitute a sight that is quite unique. There is only one parallel to it—namely, the approach to the Caucasus from the steppes of Russia, and even this is not so fine, as there is first a range of low hills, then another a little higher, and again above all the summits of the snow-clad peaks of Caucasus. Perhaps at some future time I may give a lecture upon the scenery and topography of the Rocky Mountains themselves, but for the present I must confine myself to the remark that the effect of all this scenery upon the minds of those who live in that region is very impressive. I believe that the contemplation of this magnificent scenery—magnificent in extent at least—has a very elevating effect upon the Anglo-Saxon mind, enlarging the ideas, brightening the imagination, and elevating the sentiments. In the short addresses which we received on the way, there was a loftiness of expression almost amounting to grandiloquence, to which I had hardly been accustomed in the addresses which I have received in other portions of the British Empire. The wonders I have described are wonders of nature, but to our British eyes and patriotic minds, the greatest of all wonders was the spectacle of Anglo-Saxon, British-Canadian enterprise spreading itself over the surface of this vast country and writing its marks in letters of flame, as it were, upon the book of nature. (Applause.)

#### THE MINERAL RESOURCES.

Some of the mineral resources we have not seen. I allude particularly to the iron ore of which we have observed specimens at the Exhibition in Winnipeg; but we have seen something and heard much of the coal resources. I believe there are coal-mines within a short distance of the line of the C. P. R. I understand that there are coal resources within a very moderate distance of it, and that there is quite on the line, that is within a hundred yards of it, superior lignite which will burn very well when mixed with bituminous or anthracite coal. When these coal-mines are worked you will be independent of Pittsburg and the United States in respect of coal, and I need not say that this will be a great advantage.

## THE PRAIRIE.

The prairie is fast becoming a thing of the past in this part of Canada. In that respect it is following the example of the herds of buffalo, and of the poor Indians who are receding before the face of the white man. When we left Winnipeg we saw a few miles of real prairie; owing, we were told, to the fact that the lands were in the hands of speculators who were reserving them for future use. When we got beyond this limited area we really saw no prairie at all for several hundred miles when we crossed the Saskatchewan. I mean that we never passed for a mile together on the plain, without seeing a homestead, or field, or the marks of human occupation. It was only when we crossed the Saskatchewan that we saw real prairie, and then it was only so in a modified sense. From the moment the homesteads and golden harvest-fields ceased, the cattle ranches began. I understand that almost the whole area from the Saskatchewan to the foot of the mountains is really in the hands of the cattle ranchers. Here again we saw signs of the Anglo-Saxon, in his cattle and his herds. The vegetation of the prairie, so far as we were able to see it in the intervals of uncultivated land, was not remarkable, but still was very rich. Some of the more enthusiastic of the party said it was the richest wild vegetation they had ever seen, but I think this was due to their enthusiasm, because the vegetation in the steppes of Russia is quite as rich, if not richer. Still, the flora of this country is such as to promise an abundant return for agricultural labour.

## THE SOIL.

Almost everywhere we saw rich soil. Most of us expected that we would find tracts of arid waste, or that if we saw rich soil it would be largely interspersed with specimens of gravel, rock, and soil not suitable for cultivation; but this idea proved entirely false, for I declare without exaggeration that on the whole way from Winnipeg to the foot of the Rockies—a distance of 1000 miles—there is hardly a foot of ground that did not seem to be capable of being turned to human use. Estimating the distance to the foot of the Rockies

at a thousand miles, there is for this distance one unbroken area of land more or less fertile and capable of being turned to the advantage of man.

#### PASTURAGE.

Most of the party are of opinion that the pasturage is splendid and thoroughly suited for cattle ; we were surprised that we did not see sheep as well. The grass is not very long, indeed, but still promises a rich reward to the hay-cutter. The cattle generally seem to be quite healthy, and of very good breeds, many of them coming from the neighbouring States of America, and apparently bred from some of the best stock in England. Sometimes complaints are heard in England that Canadian and American cattle dealers purchase some of their best animals, but it is not to be regretted, seeing that a high considerage has to be paid for them. We were all impressed with the necessity of being careful about cattle diseases. We heard much on the way regarding diseases that had broken out among cattle in various parts of the United States, reminding us of what has been in England; but we heard that Canada was free from them. For Heaven's sake take precautions to prevent their importation. I speak freely upon this subject, because in England we have failed to prevent the importation of diseased cattle, and the losses in consequence have been incalculable. We inquired a good deal as to ensilage, as that food for animals is becoming so fashionable in the United States and is being introduced into England ; but we were told that no such food was necessary, because the supply furnished by nature is so very abundant.

#### AGRICULTURE.

I wish to speak of two kinds of crops, cereals and roots. Cereals are grown upon many farms exclusively ; some of the greatest farms in the country are wheat farms almost entirely. We saw in many parts of the country specimens or exhibits of the products of the farm. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has set a very excellent example by having model or pattern farms close along the line of railway, to show what the country is capable of producing. In inspecting these, while we

found nothing to equal the monster cabbages shown at the Exhibition here in Winnipeg, yet we saw good turnips and potatoes. We heard in England that there would be great difficulty in growing wheat at the altitude of this country, it being too high above the sea, but this idea was entirely falsified by what we saw, for wheat grows well 2000 feet above the sea; at Calgary at 3000 feet, and at Padmore at 3500 feet. Hence there is nothing in the altitude of this country to prevent wheat being grown on an immense scale. We inquired of farmers regarding many things which we have at home, namely, rotation of crops periodically, manuring and weeding, and we were indignantly told these things might be very necessary in the Old Country, but were not required in this new land. The same crop, it is said, has been grown year after year from land without injury. Manure, it is said, is not necessary in the virgin soil which accumulates so many advantages and has such richness in the soil, the subsoil, and the soil underneath that, so that the crops will grow without manure. As to weeds, it is said that there are none of consequence. We asked about the ploughing, and said that we had to plough very deep in the old country. We were told that nothing of the kind was necessary here, that if the ground was just scratched over, crops would grow. We were told these things by practical men. The virgin soil here is a very abundant inheritance which has come down from what might be called a geological period, thousands of years having looked down upon these beautiful plains. The consequence is that for the time many of the old world devices, such as deep ploughing manuring, weeding, and rotation of crops, can be dispensed with.

#### LABOUR.

The want of labourers is a great difficulty in the interior of the North-west, and has had this effect upon the farmers, that it has compelled them to exercise their wits, and employ machinery to save labour. The agricultural machinery and implements in this country are among the most remarkable things to be seen. Every kind of implement and machine is there at work—with all their rough-sounding names, as scufflers, harrows reapers, mowers, threshers, and the like—forming a most

gratifying spectacle. We have seen them in the fields at work, in the towns outside the shops for sale, and inside the factories being repaired. The sight would make an old world man first laugh, and then feel envious. I will give one single example. In England when we reap the grain we have to stack it in order that the grain may harden, and after that we thresh it. The North-west farmer does nothing of the kind. He brings the threshing machine to bear upon the sheaves, furnished ready to his hand by the harvesting machine. Then, having threshed the wheat, he stores it for the time in a temporary wooden structure in the field, and there he allows the grain to remain and harden until the snow falls deep and becomes fit for sleighing. Then he draws it easily over the hard snow to an elevator, from which it is shot into railway cars placed beneath and carried away for exportation. The ingenuity, convenience, and rapidity of the process gives the new world a great advantage over the old world. The consequence of this machinery and the labour-saving appliances is that the average cultivation per head is extremely high in this country. One would be inclined to say there must be a great population, judging from the area of cultivation, but on the contrary, there are only a few thousands of Anglo-Saxons settled in the country. The fact is the average of acres of cultivation per head is several times as great as in the old world, every man having many acres under command, owing to the labour-saving appliances.

#### THE FARMS.

Some of the farms are great, extending over many square miles of wheat cultivation absolutely unbroken by any fence or hedge. Nevertheless, we had the pleasure of seeing many small farms in the best cultivated districts. At Portage la Prairie we understood that small farmers owned the land and worked upon it with their own hands. The farmhouses are well built, well aired, and I understand well warmed in winter; and are very comfortable, both within and without. As to cottages, we asked for them, but really there were no cottages, because there are few men so humble in the social scale as to require them. The country is absolutely without farm labourers. Around the houses of the

peasant proprietors we saw kitchen gardens with cabbage beds, turnip beds, and the like, just enough for the farmers' families. There is a good supply of fuel, though one might expect that on the prairie there would be nothing but grass or vegetation. Fortunately, there is low scrubby bush suited for fuel. The soil is entirely suited for the making of excellent bricks. To the great advantage of the farmers, there are small limestones scattered over the plains, from which excellent lime for masonry can be obtained. The subject of land speculation has attracted a great deal of unfavourable notice through the press. I have heard something of it in England, and still more in Montreal, but after all, my impression is that the story must have been greatly exaggerated. With a vast area, a wise Government, and a wise people enjoying popular representation, you should make provision for the future, so as not to allow the land to get too much into the hands of individuals or corporations. From the experience of the old country in reference to the springing up of communism, Canada should take care to prevent anything of the kind happening here. While the State is generous, giving land without stint or grudge to every good applicant who asks for it, nevertheless it ought to keep something in its own hands. It seems to me that that duty has as yet been fairly performed ; at all events it has not been left unperformed in the way some people imagine. As to the land concession of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, it should be remembered that without that concession the railway could not have been constructed. I find that the whole of the land has not been made over to the company, but only alternate blocks, the intervening ones belonging to the State ; and that the total is but a fraction of the vast area of the neighbouring tracts. Remarks have been made about this railway company having in its turn made a landed concession to a great land company, but I find that this is only a small part of the land at the disposal of the State to give away or make disposition of as it may see fit, according to the wants of the coming generation. Hence I shall feel bound to say in England that no essential harm has been done by land concessions ; and it is only fair to the Government and the Administration to declare this.

## THE CLIMATE.

One objection in England against this country is that of the winter. The summers are known to be hot, but this the people are not so much afraid of as they are of the supposed length, dreariness, and wretchedness of the winters. I believe from inquiries that this description of your winter came from the portions of country lying under the Rocky Mountains, where the chinook winds make the winters somewhat like those of England, which are proverbially dull. In the rest of the country the winters are rather bright and cheery. The snow falls and hardens on the ground, and there is bright weather with blue sky overhead, so that the people walk about with the utmost facility, and on the whole have a cheerful time in the winter. In many parts of the country the residents tell me that the winter is the nicest season they have. (Applause.) From the very kind applause I judge that the description is correct, and if so it is very important that this description should be known at home, for the prevailing impression there is doing some harm to emigration.

## TREE CULTURE.

Some say that the summer is somewhat too dry, but if so, the drouth might be mitigated by planting trees. The experience of every part of the globe proves that where the trees are swept away drouth follows, but where they are planted copiously, the earlier and the later rains are vouchsafed in due season. If the farmers and settlers would take precaution by planting trees, either in groves, or, better still, in long-stretching avenues, they would have the rains in good time. If arboriculture is to be successfully carried out, you must be careful to select those trees that will grow, because great harm has been done to the theories of arboriculturists by selecting unsuitable trees. Not those which have their roots deep down in the ground, but those which spread out their roots, as the poplar and maple ash, are the trees for the prairie. The heavy, long-continued snow and severe frost are great aids to the farmer. In England we have to sow in the autumn, and farmers have to look after their land sown with so much

labour and expence, all through the winter. All sowing here is, however, done in the spring, and that is an advantage. During the long winter the snow prepares the ground, and the timely frost pulverises the clay and renders it suitable for the plough. In the last two or three winters in England there has been very little frost, and one great pulverising agency was lost, which you here never fail to enjoy. (Laughter and applause.) At the Montreal meeting of the British Association a Canadian professor read what was on the whole one of the most remarkable papers that I have heard in regard to tree-planting, showing how, with special reference to the North-west, on every farm a grove of trees might be planted, with little patches here and there, so as to interrupt the breezes blowing from every quarter, and demonstrating how this would improve the climate, mitigate the severity of the winter, and afford shelter in every way. He illustrated all this by carefully drawn diagrams.

I hope the principles which have been thus enforced by practical science will be adopted by your farmers. Then you ought to try to preserve the primeval forest which still remains. It is the universal testimony of all Canadians that these forests are being recklessly cut without regard to the future. The forests which we have seen between here and Lake Superior and at the Rocky Mountains are poor ones, but we understand there are magnificent forests farther to the north. There is a consensus of opinion among all Canadians that these forests are being used up without regard to future requirements ; and there is an equal consensus that nothing whatever has been done by any Legislature or Government throughout the Dominion for the preservation of the forests. We could not but accept the report which we have received from competent witnesses. If it is true I will venture to utter one word of warning as to the consequences which must result to Canada if the fatal policy is pursued. Forests are very consumable things. Like the herds of wild buffaloes which disappear before the white man, they will disappear before the wood-cutter if precautions are not taken to prevent it. I have seen several examples of whole regions desolated by deforesting. It is too fatally possible to uproot the trees in such a manner that in a few years no trace of them

will be left. What made the prairie? Do you suppose that it was made so by the hand of God? It has no doubt been covered with trees of a certain height, but probably by forest fires the broad plains which were once clothed with timber as a sheep's back with fleece, are now desolate. I am not speaking for the sake of England, but for the sake of Canada. England will never want for wood. In Scandinavia, which is separated from Britain by only a narrow strip of sea, there is the most magnificent forest preservation in the world. I have recently travelled over the whole of Norway and Sweden, and the system of forest conserving has filled me with envy and admiration. There is no trace of fires, and no reckless cutting; and everything is done methodically and scientifically. I saw the old forests and the new ones coming up; and everything is provided for the use of the present and the prospects of the future. Canada not only supplies the North-west, but also exports a large quantity to England; and it would be a melancholy thing to see her lumber trade pass into the hands of Scandinavia, owing to the neglect of Canadians themselves. Then, besides, you would have to use expensive stone and masonry for many purposes for which you now use wood. Every member of the British Association thinks as I have expressed in regard to this matter, and they have done everything they could at the Montreal meeting to ventilate the subject.

#### THE TOWNS.

I will not undertake to describe Winnipeg; but we have seen the various towns along the railway, inspecting Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Qu'Appelle, Medicine Hat, Moose Jaw, and Calgary; and I will add, Regina and Broadview. I am bound to congratulate you heartily on the condition of those rising places. Truly it is wonderful the manner in which these towns have sprung up. The streets are well laid out, and the houses are clean and tidy and picturesque in their architecture. Villas are springing up in the suburbs, and every villa has a cordon of trees rising up around it. We have observed the schools, the churches, the banks, and civic buildings, and various other institutions; and we have seen also the shops full of all the paraphernalia of civilisation. We

have been particularly struck with the stocks of agricultural machinery already mentioned. Altogether the condition of those places is most satisfactory. We observed also in many places factories, and in every direction perceived signs of what might be truly called culture. I congratulate the people of Winnipeg on the Exhibition here. Culture was exactly the thing which was most likely to prove wanting in a young community. Really the manner in which the Exhibition has been got up, the variety and beauty of the objects exhibited, and the careful and scientific manner in which they have been displayed, are eminently creditable to this community, and show that you are reaching culture in the truest sense of the term. I think the British Association may be congratulated on the fact that it was for their honour and edification that the citizens of Winnipeg kindly undertook to get up this Exhibition. If our coming to Winnipeg has no other result than this of inducing you to organise that Exhibition, we have been instrumental in doing good to you as well as to ourselves in rendering our visit memorable.

#### COMMUNICATION BY LAND AND WATER.

It would be like gilding fine gold if I were to praise the Canadian Pacific Railway. Generally in Canada a railway administration is not thought by outsiders to be one of the strong points of the country. The fact is that in the new country with a vast area and a scanty population, railways are extended beyond the power of managing them up to the standard of the United States, or more particularly that of England. The Canadian Pacific Railway seems to be an exception. Passing by one or two accidents, beyond the control of any person or persons, I am bound to give the highest and most favourable testimony regarding the management of that great railway. But we are anxious to impress the consideration that the Canadian Pacific Railway is only the beginning of the vast railway system, nothing more or less than the main artery from which must branch out many veins—the backbone of the body politic, the limbs, arms, toes, and fingers being yet to come. The Canadian Pacific Railway runs through a rich country no doubt, but still not the richest—the

richest country is far to the north, and to that country branches must extend.

Critics say that the main line ought to have been taken farther north ; but no doubt the wisest course has been followed, because the main trunk runs nearly as straight as an arrow from ocean to ocean. The remaining work of constructing branches to the north is what might be called the crying want of the North-west. (Applause.) We have heard remarks by many farmers to the effect that branch railways are wanting towards the south from the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, so as to make connection with the railways advancing upwards from the United States. The great and pressing importance of these matters should receive consideration. We are aware that the Canadian boatmen so celebrated in song and story are beginning to pass away and be superseded, inasmuch as boats on rivers may have to yield to the iron horse on land. Nevertheless we have observed that there is much steamer communication on the Assiniboine and Saskatchewan rivers right up to Medicine Hat. I heard also that there is excellent lake communication up to Winnipeg and along one branch of the Saskatchewan. Long experience has convinced me that canal or river navigation cannot in the long run compete with railways ; nevertheless it is a great advantage to a country intersected by railways to have a few navigable rivers and canals also, because, although they cannot compete with railways, yet they carry things cheaply, and have a beneficial tendency as regards the public in keeping down railway charges for freight. In reference to Hudson's Bay ocean navigation—(applause) —I am aware that a committee of experts is sitting upon this project, and considering whether it is practicable. If the committee reports that it is practicable, good ; but if not, I would never abandon the hope that it might be found practicable by those who come after. (Prolonged applause.) I feel convinced that it must be practicable, because Hudson's Bay Company ships have navigated there for many generations, and what was practicable for them must be practicable for the steamships and Atlantic racers of the present day. The objections amount to this —that the harbours along Hudson's Bay are only open during a very short time each year. Still, the Hudson's

Bay Company ships come pretty much at will all through the summer months, and why cannot a steamer do the same thing? Suppose at the worst the open season is but for a short time, nevertheless the route would be an advantage. In some countries there are waters open but for four months in the year, in which, still, a mighty traffic is done, as arrangements are made accordingly, and trade adapts itself to them. Even if there is but three or four months of open navigation for Hudson's Bay, then during the season ocean-going ships would come from Liverpool to Port Nelson or some other harbour there, that circumstance will make a world of difference to the North-west, and entirely change the condition of the country, introduce a new factor into your political life, and altogether be very important to you, placing you at Winnipeg almost in direct communication with Liverpool by water. It would have immense effect upon the rich northern district I have been describing, and especially along the lower valley of the Saskatchewan. I regret that I have not been able to visit that country and enforce my remarks by practical observation; yet, notwithstanding, I am bound to state what I shall state in England—my own conviction and that of thousands of others. (Applause.)

#### THE TARIFF.

I am not surprised to hear most of the farmers from England complain of the present tariff. They dislike having to pay the duty on agricultural implements, and think it pretty hard that there should be so much taxation on canned provisions. The duty on the latter is somewhat hard; but it seems that the agricultural implement question might be found to involve the fate of Canadian manufacturers. It must be for you Canadians to judge as a community whether it is or is not worth while to pay somewhat higher prices than you would otherwise have to pay in order to foster your rising manufacturers. That is a question on which an outsider would be careful about offering an opinion. I, as an economic scientist, must say that economic science is against a protective tariff, but science is not always strictly applied to politics, and I admit that you are handicapped with many difficulties owing to your commercial relations

with the United States. Nevertheless it is for you to judge whether you would consent or could afford to pay something in order that your young and rising Canadian manufacturers may be cherished during their infancy. If you think you can you must be prepared to bear a certain amount of sacrifice. After all you must remember that Providence has endowed you with many advantages which older countries do not possess, and perhaps you might be content to bide your time in hope that your friends and representatives down at Ottawa will try to temper the wind to the shorn lamb, and strive to make the duties as convenient and light to you as they possibly can in view of your contentment and your being reconciled to a certain amount of national sacrifice for the sake of the young manufactures on the banks of the St. Lawrence. If you are not pleased with the tariff at present, you may be inclined, perhaps, to bear your fate meekly, because, taking communities one with another, there are few so blessed as you are. If other portions of the Dominion have authority over you, it is possible that in the not distant future you may become so great as to have authority over them. Although I am interested in the great future of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and all other parts of this Dominion, in none do I see any future comparable to yours. With this land, which has the brightest prospect before any other land in the British Empire, stretching out around you, you may be prepared to acquiesce in certain sacrifices, if that be judged best by those in authority. Though I am a Conservative in English politics, I have personally believed in free-trade. Though we believe it is right to have a free-trade policy, yet if we suggest that other nations should adopt the same, it is more for the good of the latter than our own. It was because other nations chose to put on their protective tariff that England remained queen of all the neutral markets in the world ; and it is owing to those protective tariffs that she has managed to get into her hands the ship-building industry, so that she builds 70 or 80 per cent. of all the ships that are built on earth. That business is extremely important and has been absolutely thrown into her hands by the protective tariffs, which, in defiance of economic science, other nations have adopted. The moral advantages of free trade to England are even

greater than the material ; because British manufacturers, knowing that they are wholly unprotected and can rely upon nothing except their own skill, industry, resources, and capital, are exerting themselves with an inventive-ness and fertility which is not, I believe, equalled on earth. It is impossible to give an idea of the ceaseless exertions Englishmen are making to preserve their proud place at the head of the industries of the world, because they know they have nothing to rely on but themselves. Their rivals in Europe and elsewhere hope that a peculiar economy will induce England some time to put on a protective duty, because they know that things would then become dear in England, and England would no longer command the neutral markets. Competition would cease if England once adopted a protective system. It is not for our own sake that we would advise you in the friendliest manner to look to your tariff. If other nations choose to make things dear, let them do so, it is their own business ; but England continues to make her commerce as free as the air, and remains the undisputable and undisputed head of the industries of the world.

#### CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

The condition of the people of the North-west seems to me to be perfectly satisfactory, and you must be congratulated thereon. I have observed everywhere churches springing up. Some are wonderfully well built, though others are rude and humble ; yet the Divine Majesty is no respecter of churches ; there are living institutions, clergy, congregations, and ecclesiastical arrangements which seem to be excellent. The whole country is parcelled out into episcopal sees, and in all of them clergy are accumulating. Excellent provision is being made for education. There are large schools in the towns ; and even in the sparsely inhabited country in the interior there is a school system. The ecclesiastical, religious, and educational provisions are most creditable to the North-west of Canada. In connection with the moral condition of the people, I ask permission to con-gratulate you heartily upon all the restrictions that you have been able to maintain in Manitoba respecting the manufacture and sale of spirituous liquors, and still more upon the prohibition which you have righteously

enforced throughout the North-west. I understand that this prohibition was introduced originally out of a charitable and humane regard towards the Indians; but I believe it is just as good for your own people as for the Indians. The authorities have assured me that the Canadian Pacific Railway could not have been constructed so quickly and efficiently as it was had there been no such thing as prohibition, and had the free use of whisky been permitted. I asked the mounted police, and they informed me that their men were all temperance men. I do not know whether the word was used in any particular sense here, but, at all events, they said that their men were sober and temperate as a body, and I believe the officers did them no more than justice. I attribute the sobriety and good conduct of the men to the prohibition existing in respect to liquor. It has not been affirmed that the men would not drink liquor if they could get it, but they had difficulty in getting it, and being well-disposed men they reconcile themselves to abstinence. As you have this great advantage, I urge you for God's sake to keep it. You have a chance which they do not possess in the old world. There the use of intoxicating liquors has been for many centuries inveterate; and when it is once established it can with difficulty be eradicated, but that it must be by the gradual progress of enlightenment and education. You have been keeping liquor out of the country, for God's sake use that advantage. I am desirous to influence public opinion. We heard in every direction that this prohibition was being greatly infringed and trespassed upon, and that eventually it would be taken away, and that free drinking would have scope. I hope that this will not be the case. I heartily congratulate you on the advantage you have, and I earnestly beseech you to keep it as long as you can.

#### IMMIGRATION.

Immigration to the North-west is of two kinds, for the cattle ranche and for the farm. You are getting most excellent men—the best possible class—for cattle ranching. Sons of gentlemen who found every profession at home overstocked, who could not enter the army in the face of the competitive examinations, or who could not succeed

at the bar, or in the church, and who found the counting-houses and banking establishments all filled with clerks, are already thinking they can better their lot by taking to cattle ranching. I would far sooner see my son a farmer, active on horseback, making a little money and becoming independent before he was thirty years of age, than sitting still in a lawyer's office at home. I have made the acquaintance of several young men well educated and well-bred, working away on cattle ranches, healthy, blooming, and hearty as young Englishmen ought to be, and who have lost none of their good English manner, or good original culture. Even several men high up in the professions at home are investing their capital in these ranches. My friend Mr. Staveley Hill has a splendid cattle ranche near Calgary. He is an eminent member of the English bar, and a member of Parliament also, and altogether one of the rising men in the profession, nevertheless he is investing in this Canadian enterprise. I came out in the same ship with Mr. Inderwick, a Q.C. and a member of Parliament, who has settled his son on a cattle ranche near Fort Macleod. That class of men you are likely to get in increasing number. As regards farmers and farm labourers, I apprehend there will be difficulty, because in England they rather want all the farmers they have. Farm labourers are not the class they can conveniently spare. Artisan labourers are not wanted in the Northwest, but are more suited for Ontario. Men in privation, who cannot get on, who have fallen into misfortune through bad seasons, may emigrate, and although they have no special fitness for agriculture, may undergo a practical training at technical schools. The British people are beginning to think of Canada as a country with a great promise. Hitherto the United States have had the lion's share of the emigration, especially since the development of their North-western States. Now it is probable that public attention is so much turned to the North-western Provinces of Canada that there will be an ever-increasing stream of immigrants, but I doubt if they will be actual agriculturists. But although they may not understand farming, yet they may have stout hearts and strong hands, and an aptitude for learning, if you only make provision for teaching them. Canada was little known a few years ago in England,

but is well known now. At the mention of Canada before an English audience men and women prick up their ears. After coming to Canada a few years ago, as soon as I got home I was required to give account of what I had seen. I then stated what I had to say regarding Quebec and Ontario, but was obliged to withhold a report of the North-west, which I had not seen. No doubt in my native country of Worcestershire, and in Birmingham, a strict account will be exacted from me on my return from the North-west. Knowing I have before me an audience of experts this evening, I have carefully abstained from fine language and restrained my enthusiasm. It is difficult to praise people to their faces, but I shall be under no such disadvantage when I recross the Atlantic. Then I shall be able to praise you to my heart's content, behind your backs, and I will give full vent to the enthusiasm in my heart. I will indulge in what are sometimes called "hifalutin" expressions regarding the boundless prairies and the grand Rockies, and I shall be able to attempt a poetic description of the glories of this land of promise, and I will urge my friends and neighbours who cannot get on at home to try their luck out here. As I have had the advantage, through the kindness of my hearers, of rehearsing my performance before them this evening, I hope that I may be able to perform it hereafter with much more vivacity and energy than I have been able to display on this occasion. I shall give a sincere and hearty report regarding the future which lies before you, and advise with all earnestness my countrymen at home to take part if they can in these great enterprises.

#### THE FEELING IN ENGLAND.

There is a feeling amongst some Canadians that they have been disparaged among the people at home: but I am not aware of such disparagement, and will venture to give some contradiction to the assertion. I assure you that it is not the case, although my friends at home are not accurately acquainted with Canada. It is a large country, the maps are very uncertain, and the old ones are all wrong. I think the Canadians themselves hardly have an idea of all its geographical features, and the people of the eastern provinces would hardly be able to

pass a satisfactory examination on the geography of the Saskatchewan, the Peace, and the McKenzie rivers, hence I can hardly be surprised if this were the case in the old country. Yet people have visionary ideas of countries with which they are not actually acquainted ; poetic ideas regarding things of which they have not accurate knowledge, as great, glorious and grand, though they do not exactly know in what the greatness, glory, and grandeur consist. I am sure that no description which I can give would exceed the conception the people at home already have in their own imagination. They imagine you vaguely to have a great country with quite an immense development before it. It will be my duty in return for all the kindness and hospitality I have received here, to give them these particulars, and whether my account will be correct or incorrect the present audience will be able to judge from what I have been telling you this evening. If my report is favourable it will gladden the hearts of our countrymen at home, and make their breasts swell with patriotic fervour and their eyes glisten with sympathy for you, their fellow-countrymen. They feel the greatest pride in their colonial—I will not say dependencies—but dominions which form a part of the British empire. They do not regard you as subject, but as fully equal to themselves and as partaking of all the privileges of the mother-land. Whatever you achieve of happiness or prosperity will always be a source of gladness to them. They will rejoice when you rejoice, and weep when you weep. They feel a patriotic and brotherly sentiment towards you in common with all the colonies of the British Empire. (Prolonged applause.)

